



# SAFETY ALERT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER & FORT POLK  
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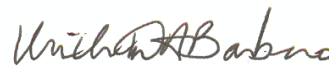
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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Accident -- Safety Alert 04-01

1. A Soldier was involved in a motorcycle accident this weekend near Hemphill, Texas. This is the second motorcycle accident we have had within 2 weeks. Both were very similar.
2. The Soldier was attempting to pass another vehicle on the left when another vehicle turned into oncoming traffic without warning. The Soldier steered his motorcycle off the road to avoid the collision and struck a guardrail. He sustained a closed head trauma and is currently in a coma.
3. What was the driving mistake? The Soldier was not at fault and did not commit any driving errors.
4. General lessons learned from this accident are as follows:
  - a. Motorcycle drivers have a very low profile and cannot be easily seen at times. The profile is further decreased when the driver is crouched over to decrease the wind resistance. Drivers should make every effort to increase their visibility by ensuring bright color clothes and reflective material, such as a belt worn diagonally, a vest, or a riding jacket, are worn. Motorcycle drivers should expect the unexpected and should have 360 degrees of situational awareness.
  - b. Automobile drivers also need to have situational awareness. As drivers, we need to pay attention to details. There are many things that have a low profile (motorcyclists, bicyclists, skateboarders, roller skaters, pedestrians, and children), and we should be alert for these things at all times.
5. Remember to always expect the unexpected, especially when driving a motorcycle. Practice risk management. Ensure you have made every effort to increase your visibility while driving. We need to make sure our Soldiers know the standards, our leaders enforce the standards, and our Soldiers comply with the standards. We owe it to our Soldiers and ourselves.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON ALL BULLETIN BOARDS**

  
MICHAEL D. BARBERO  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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A+

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